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COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

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July 18, 2007

Linda McClelland  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye St., NW  
8th Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Quihi and New Fountain Historic Districts, Medina County, Texas.

Dear Ms. McClelland:

This letter serves as comment from the Texas SHPO regarding the report *Rural Historic Landscape Analysis, Quihi Vicinity, Medina County, Texas*, prepared by Terri Myers and Elizabeth Butman for the Surface Transportation Board in 2006.

Texas Historical Commission staff reviewed the document, and has determined that the documentation supports the eligibility of three distinct historic districts in the vicinity of Quihi, Texas. This area of the state is known for its settlement during the Texas Republic period and early Statehood period by German and Alsatian colonists organized by empresario Henri Castro. While the nearby settlement of Castroville (NRHP 1970) has been well-known as the most successful of Castro's settlements, the rural communities of Quihi and New Fountain date to the same settlement period and still retain many of their historic features, including early houses and outbuildings based on European forms, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early century popular style buildings that indicate the assimilation of the settlers' successive generations, and rural landscapes that remain relatively true to 19<sup>th</sup> century land patterns.

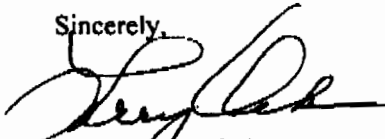
We concur that properties within the Quihi and New Fountain area should be nominated to the National Register as part of a Multiple Property Submission, with at least two distinct historic districts encompassing the core of each community, including a combined Quihi/Upper Quihi district reflecting the extension of the community to the north through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The proposed district boundaries are drawn to encompass the majority of contributing properties, and avoiding concentrations of noncontributing properties, generally those built within the past 50 years. Lack of access to some properties at the periphery of each district prevented the surveyors from assessing the eligibility of some properties, and thus they were not drawn with district boundaries; future access may reveal eligible properties that could merit extending the boundaries to include them. Several historic properties that are physically separate from the districts retain integrity and could probably be nominated individually under an MPS.

Since both districts share a historic context with Castroville and Henri Castro's successful efforts to establish German/Alsatian settlements in Texas, and both retain contributing properties dating to this early period of Texas settlement, they should be nominated to the National Register at the

state level of significance, under Criterion A in the areas of Settlement and Ethnic Heritage/European, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture.

If you have any questions concerning this review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Gregory Smith at (512) 463-6013. Thank you for your interest in preserving the rich heritage of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Lawrence Oaks', written in a cursive style.

F. Lawrence Oaks  
Executive Director